

190 M 361 from Asahi Shimbun

29 August 1940

The first Preparation Committee meeting for a New System held. Admiral SUETSUGU appointed to preside over the meeting.

The KONO statement, based on the idea of a New System of government so earnestly desired by the whole nation, was made public home and abroad in the name of Prime Minister KONO, during the first meeting of the Preparation Committee for a New System on the 28th at 2:00 P. M.

On that day, Chairman Prime Minister KONO and his Cabinet members, 25 civilian representative committeemen, and 7 standing committeemen gathered at the official residence of the Prime Minister. In the large hall on the second floor of the residence, as a meeting place, formality, even in the placing of seats, was carefully avoided, for the sake of a particularly free discussion centered around the Prime Minister, and an atmosphere appropriate to the founding of the National Imperial Rule Assistance System was soon observed.

Those present were as follows:

Government:

Prime Minister KONO and all Cabinet members, Director of the Legislation Bureau MURASE, Chief Cabinet secretary TOMITA and other officials concerned.

Civilian: 25 committeemen.

GOTO Fumio, Count ARIMA Yoriyasu,
Baron IGUCHI Iwakusu, HORIKIRI Zenjiro
OTA Kozo, NAGAI Ryutaro, MAEDA Yonezo,
OKADA Tadahiko, OGAWA Gotaro,
KANEMITSU Yasuo, AKITA Kiyoshi
ASAO Hisashi, HIRAGA Yuruzu, IZAKA Takashi
HATTA Yoshiaki, SHIRATORI Toshio
SUETSUGU Nobutada, HASHIMOTO Kingoro
NAKANO Seigo, KUZUO Yoshihisa,
OKAZAKI, Tsutomu, FURUNO, Inosuke
TAKAISHI, Shingoro, SEIRIKI Matsutaro
OGATA Taketora, (Viscount OKOCHI
(Masatoshi was absent on his journey)
and Secretary GOTO Ryunosuke.

At 2:00 p. m. the appointed hour, the meeting was opened. At the opening, Chairman Prime Minister KONO, putting his speech draft on the table, delivered his historic statement as his opening address. In it, the Prime Minister spoke emphatically on the urgent task of establishing an Imperial

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Rule Assistance System based on a foundation of firm national organization in order to overcome present difficulties and asked the Preparation Committee for their full cooperation in its implementation.

Next, for the purpose of expediting the proceedings, the Prime Minister appointed Admiral SUETSUGU to preside over the meeting for that day. On Admiral SUETSUGU's taking the chair, discussion began. Many lively questions were shot from the Preparation Committee to which explanations were made by Prime Minister KONO and Cabinet Chief Secretary TOMITA, the Standing Secretary of the Committee. Thus in the first meeting, there was an earnest discussion concentrated on making clear the ideas for the New System advanced in the statement.